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Carnegie Foundation for
the Advancement...

Appreciations

[Boston]

1938

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THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

Appreciations



308

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Box 487

1938

Printed for Private Distribution

*Excerpts of
Carnegie Foundation for the
Advancement of Teaching
10.4.38*

D. B. Updike • The Merrymount Press • Boston

Foreword

THE pages which follow set forth typical excerpts from the many expressions of gratitude and appreciation which have come to the Foundation since its first retiring allowance was granted almost a third of a century ago. The excerpts are printed as written, although means of identifying their writers have been removed and a few minor editorial changes made for printing. The pamphlet is distributed only to persons identified with Mr. Carnegie's philanthropies.

Notable characteristics of the excerpts and of the larger body of letters from which they are selected are sincerity, spontaneity, and gratitude to the Founder. Many of the letters were written at the time of the centenary celebration of his birth, in which not a few beneficiaries felt a personal interest. Except for this occasion the flow of such communications has remained fairly constant over more than thirty years. In all of them the personal note is dominant—a note of appreciation and thankfulness from men and women formerly associated with “the least rewarded of all the professions” to Mr. Carnegie and the Foundation which he established.

WALTER A. JESSUP

September, 1938

Appreciations

I WISH to tell you how grateful I am to Mr. Carnegie and the trustees and officers of the Carnegie Foundation for the checks that come to me every month. For many years I had a good salary but many expenses, and when I retired there was little left. Thanks to the Carnegie Foundation I can live comfortably in a small town and still enjoy life and I am only one of the many thousands who have received help.

PERMIT me . . . to express my gratitude, briefly, but sincerely, for the generous provision which the Foundation has made for me in my old age.

I USED to be dean . . . for some thirty years beside many other years of teaching. . . . I was retired in 1929. . . . After a year or two I had an opportunity to take up once more a girlhood avocation,—water color painting. . . . Last April I was able to stage an exhibition . . . of some twenty-five winter scenes. . . . Another exhibition has now just closed of summer scenes. There will be a third for the month of March . . . I think it unusual for people of my age to have so much pleasure as I get from painting these pictures and from having them praised. I am certainly most grateful for this. . . .

I HAVE been notified by our comptroller that the executive committee of the Carnegie Foundation has approved a retiring allowance for me . . . and also the supplementary annuity contract from the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association. Will you permit me to express my great appreciation of this award, which is very welcome and indeed very necessary.

. . . I wish to express my deep appreciation of your generosity, as it will contribute very materially to the enjoyment of the years of rest which may yet be in store for me.

Thanking you also cordially for your good wishes, . . .

APPRECIATIONS

... I WISH to take this occasion to express . . . to the members of the executive committee of the Foundation, my cordial appreciation of this action on their part. . . .

I am retiring from the position of librarian of the university . . . after over forty-six years of service. Having begun my work at the age of twenty-one, I still consider myself a very young man! Consequently I am looking forward to retirement from active duties next month with considerable pleasure.

... I WISH to thank you and the [executive] committee for your most comforting action and for your cordial good wishes. You may be interested to know that I am this year rounding out fifty years of classroom service, the last twenty-seven being in this University.

Perhaps to the committee these grants become chiefly routine business, but to us each one is a very significant event which I personally appreciate more than words can express. It means peace of mind and an inspiration to continued service in the field of education. There is so much to be done for causes which cannot pay for needed service and it will be a great satisfaction to give such service without need for money return.

WE who were formerly members of the faculty . . . and who are now enjoying retiring allowances from the Carnegie Foundation, wish to express on the occasion of the celebration of Mr. Carnegie's one hundredth birthday our appreciation of his thoughtfulness for those who have spent their lives in academic service.

We marvel that Mr. Carnegie, himself without the benefits of a formal education, could conceive of so many ways in which to advance learning in this country.

It is our pleasure on this anniversary to join with others in grateful tribute.

THE recent celebration of the birthday anniversary of Mr. Andrew Carnegie reminds us all of the debt of gratitude we owe him. His philanthropy was so generous and widely extended that multitudes have shared its blessings. I feel that [the] College was and is greatly helped by his unselfish benefactions. Having been a "shut in" for nearly three months, I especially prize my Carnegie pension. . . .

APPRECIATIONS

THE pension that has been given to Mrs. —, who had very little left to her in addition to her residence, has been of great importance. It has enabled her to maintain her place in the community and has relieved her of anxiety and care. . . .

I BEG leave to express my sincere gratitude for the generous and regularly paid monthly allowance you have been sending me since I retired. . . .

... WILL you kindly express to the members of the executive committee my gratitude not only for the sense of security for the future that their action has given me but for the spirit of friendliness and good will in which the matter has been handled.

... THE Carnegie pension was a great burden-lifter from both father and mother and they appreciated it very much indeed.

THE Carnegie gift was and is a God-send to us. It has made our lives longer, more efficient, and happier.

THIS letter is . . . to express to and through you my grateful thanks.

The addition of \$44.58 each month to my limited income will mean modest independence and peace of mind.

IT is difficult at times to see what the University and some of the older members of the faculty would do without the financial benefits the Foundation's retiring allowance system provides.

WORDS cannot adequately express my feelings of gratitude. In true teaching and basic research one must isolate himself from financial considerations. Provision like that of the Carnegie Foundation grants this freedom and permits the vital undivided devotion which is so necessary.

... I AM one of the thankful recipients of Mr. Carnegie's bounty as emeritus ...

I wish to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the receipt of the final payments from your pension to the estate. ... This pension, through many years, was a great aid and blessing both to — and later to his widow. ... They never ceased to be grateful during the time when they were so fortunate as to be on your list of pensioners.

LET me add that the retiring allowance is greatly appreciated. It will enable me to make ends meet for the year. We can pass the winter quite as cheaply here as in [a northern city] and my health is greatly improved. I hope that ultimately my research work will be a credit to the University.

... ALTHOUGH ninety-four years of age my mother is as well as can be expected from one of her advanced years, and she desires me to express her extreme gratitude to the Carnegie Foundation for its generosity and help rendered to her.

... THE Foundation is most certainly rendering a great service which cannot be measured entirely in money, not only to [the] college but also to the teaching profession.

... IT is a great privilege to express to you again, as representing Mr. Carnegie's benefaction, my very great appreciation of his and your provision for teachers. And this past week, especially, I have wished many times that I could say Thank You to Mrs. Carnegie. ...

As occasion offers, I wish you would carry forward for me my expressions of most grateful appreciation, both to the Family, if possible, and certainly to your own officials.

As one of the recipients of the nearly two million dollars expended in the past year to the teachers I desire to express my warmest thanks for my share

in the gift of Andrew Carnegie bequest on this hundredth anniversary of his birth, and know no better way of testifying for my gratitude than the extract from my diary of October 3, 1927 recording the receipt of the first pay check from the board: "I thank God for relief from great anxiety." It came just after my first experience of the growing paralysis which necessitated my retirement from my much loved daily work. My good wife died in 1921 leaving me in heavy indebtedness and with six daughters to assist. Thanks to the Providence of the good God and to your contributions I have been able to continue unto the present in comfort and hope for the future of life.

The "relief" of which my hasty diary makes mention was indeed great beyond my power to express and my sense of indebtedness is likewise far more than can be written but can never be forgotten. It is little to mention my thanks but I can assure you that it has been a "life sav[er]" to myself and to my children and for the same I earnestly thank all representatives of the great benefactor whose birth we all commemorate today.

With constant and heartfelt thanksgiving, I am yours truly: ...

[Name and former title]

Excuse lack of a written signature due to paralytic disease.

I wish to thank the Carnegie Foundation for their cooperation and generous retiring allowance for the member of our faculty who more than any one else has contributed to the intellectual standards and academic integrity of [the] College through his many years of distinguished service ...

... I wish to thank the Carnegie Foundation for continuing the pension for a month and granting me half the amount hereafter. It is much needed.

My sisters and I want to thank you most sincerely for sending my mother the \$500 yearly pension since my father died twenty-five years ago.

It furnished her half of her entire income and has given her the independence and security older people so much desire and are so often without. A life of dependence upon her children would have been a very unhappy one for my mother, so I want to thank you for her, for furnishing her this means of happiness.

I also want to thank you, for myself, for continuing the pension for this month after mother's death. Her last sickness was quite a drain upon our resources and the extra \$41.66 will be a help in paying the bills.

... I, too, feel that I must say a word of thanks and congratulations to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, for I have observed its work from the standpoint of the president of [a] college for the last twenty-odd years, and know how much it has helped the college as a whole and the individual members of its faculty.

... THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION ... states that the pension awarded my mother will be continued for thirty days from her death. I want you to know how deeply grateful we feel for this unexpected courtesy.

I also wish to tell you what a very wonderful thing this pension has been for my parents. They reared and educated a family of five children on a college professor's salary and were of course unable to save any great amount for their old age. The Carnegie Pension, coming regularly each month, made possible for them a happy existence in their own home, financially independent to the end. Of course it is needless to tell you that we, their children, feel a deep and sincere gratitude to you who have made this possible.

I WANT to express to you the appreciation of Mr.—'s children and myself for the courtesy and kindness shown to [him] and to us by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The payments helped us through some very difficult months. ...

... HE, as well as the faculty and myself, will feel a very deep thankfulness to the protection that the Carnegie Foundation furnishes to retiring teachers.

[He] was one of those who had been provident and had accumulated a sufficient saving to have made it possible for him and his wife to have lived on a very modest scale. The shrinking of values, the result of the depression, ... had meant that his total income would have been only about \$1,000 a year.

The retiring allowance of the Carnegie Foundation, therefore, comes very much as a life saver. ...

... SINCE I began my teaching in 1889, while still a student ... I have, indeed been long at work, but, as I review the near-half-century, I see but little accomplished. This may be characteristic of teachers. The University ... has always been very kind to me and mine, and we are relinquishing a happy life [here] because conditions of health require both my wife and me to live in Florida during the winter. I regret that I could not continue to the age of seventy. In as much as the University has no retiring allowance, I need hardly dwell upon the gratitude that my wife and I feel for the annual payment from the Carnegie. The economies of old age are never agreeable to contemplate and this lessening of our load means much. Had not general financial disaster descended upon our country, my private problems would be far different, for my wife and I have saved steadily what we could. We are simply faring as others fare who have relied on investments. Will you kindly convey to your colleagues my thanks ...

... ALTHOUGH [my mother] would never have lacked a comfortable home, she thought that she would always have an income of her own with which she could pay her personal expenses and make gifts, even pay all her physician's bills and funeral expenses was always a great satisfaction to her. It helped her to be braver while great physical disabilities made life very depressing for her.

For my father, too, the pension from the Carnegie Foundation was one of the greatest blessings that came to him in life.

I hope that its funds have not been seriously impaired and that its great benefits to people like my parents can continue.

... WITH appreciation of all that the Carnegie Foundation has done and is doing for [the] college.

... FATHER greatly appreciated the monthly Carnegie checks. They enabled him to live in comfort and continued usefulness. At the final services

it was noted that his widest fame as an educator came while he was emeritus through his address at the dedication of the local . . . school in 1924. It was adopted by the National Education Association and is used in the dedication of schools throughout the Nation. . . .

. . . I AM in receipt of a letter from her in which she asks me to express to the Foundation her great gratitude for this "helpful source of comfort and security."

FOR the good the trust fund accomplished in the pension given to my distinguished father, and my beloved mother, I am indeed truly grateful. These few words hardly convey my deep appreciation.

PLEASE accept my most sincere thanks for the generous cheques which have been sent so promptly and which have contributed to my own comfort and to the comfort of those depending on me. . . .

. . . FOR your information I may say that there was so little to be settled (my mother's income having been solely your pension for many years), and no estate, so that no administrator has been appointed. . . .

May I tell you again, as my mother has before, of her great appreciation for this pension, which has meant independence to her, and insured a comfortable and happy old age. She was eighty last July.

. . . I WANT to tell you how much I have enjoyed my pension and how grateful I am to the Foundation and to the late Mr. Carnegie for the help I have received.

THE national observance of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the kindly generous Andrew Carnegie, gives me the opportunity to express my appreciation of and gratitude for his "Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching."

Until October the 18th my loved father . . . was enabled to live, in a modest comfortable manner, until he passed on in his 87th year.

This was made possible thru the fund established by Andrew Carnegie to give retirement pensions to college professors and their widows.

From now on my mother will receive the widow's pension, whatever amount it is, and my brother and I will make up the difference that father received, so as to enable my mother to pass the rest of her days in the old home. She is over eighty.

I should indeed be wanting in gratitude if the time should pass and I did not express thanks for the gifts which blessed my beloved father. . . .

THOUGH I dislike to pester you with inconsequential mail, I cannot refrain from thanking you for my monthly check, coming as regularly as the days—and I always thank Mr. Carnegie and the Foundation when every check comes.

. . . I CANNOT terminate this letter without expressing my profound sense of the great obligation I owe to the extraordinary generosity of Mr. Carnegie, and the Foundation known by his name; and I am glad to say that I happen to be a fellow countryman of Carnegie, although I have spent far the greater part of my life in [another land] . . .

IT seems to me that the most fitting tribute I can pay to the life and memory of Andrew Carnegie is to acknowledge my personal indebtedness to him for a pension in my old age and to express my gratitude to the agency through which Mr. Carnegie's beneficence is administered.

. . . A RECIPIENT for many years of a pension from the Carnegie Foundation passed away this morning at her residence. . . . Among her papers is a request that you be informed of her death with the expression of her great gratitude to you.

. . . WITH blessings on the memory of Andrew Carnegie.

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